

#14  
LB  
8/13/02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of

Yasuharu Yoshida

Serial No.: 09/348,169

Group Art Unit: 2682

Filing Date: July 7, 1999

Examiner: Ly, Nghi H.

For: AUTOMOBILE COMMUNICATION METHOD AND SYSTEM

Honorable Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

RECEIVED

AUG 1 2 2002

Technology Center 2600

RESPONSE

Sir:

This paper is in response to the Office Action dated April 18, 2002.

REMARKS

Claims 1-36 are pending. Claims 1, 4 and 13 are independent.

Applicant also notes that, notwithstanding any claim amendments herein or later during prosecution, that Applicant's intent is to encompass equivalents of all claim elements.

**I. THE CLAIMED INVENTION**

Applicant's invention, as disclosed and claimed, is directed to an automobile communications method and apparatus for an onboard mobile station in a plurality of radio zones which are consecutively arranged along a road. The method includes controlling the communication frequencies used in each of the radio zones in a time division scheme such that simultaneous transmission at a same communication frequency is not permitted in adjoining